

NOTICES OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

Notices of Public Information contain corrections that agencies wish to make to their notices of rulemaking; miscellaneous rule-making information that does not fit into any other category of notice; and other types of information required by statute to be published in the *Register*. Because of the variety of material that is contained in a Notice of Public Information, the Office of the Secretary of State has not established a specific format for these notices.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

[M08-355]

1. Subject matter of Notice of Public Information:

The Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum has prepared a draft of the 2008 Triennial Review of water quality standards for salinity and a plan of implementation for the Colorado River (“Review”), and is asking each basin state to solicit public comments on the Review. This notice is Arizona’s solicitation of public comment on the Review. The draft 2008 Review may be downloaded from the Salinity Control Forum web site at <http://www.ColoradoRiverSalinity.org>.

2. Submitted by:

Submitted on behalf of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, a forum-member State.

3. Background information:

Following the passage of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (later renamed the Clean Water Act) in 1972, the seven Colorado River Basin states formed the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (Forum) in 1973 to develop the numeric standards for salinity on the river as well as a basin-wide plan of implementation to reduce the levels of salt in the Colorado River. The Forum continues as a working group to provide interstate and interagency coordination and guidance for the program to ensure that those projects which are the most cost-effective be given preference for funding.

In 1974, Congress enacted the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act which authorized the construction, operation, and maintenance of salinity control works throughout the Basin. Title I of the Act addresses the U.S. commitment to Mexico regarding the quality of water deliveries to Mexico pursuant to the Treaty of 1944. Title II created the salinity control program and directed the Departments of Interior and Agriculture and the EPA to manage salinity.

In 1975, the Forum adopted water quality standards for salinity for that portion of the Colorado River Basin in the U.S. As required by the Clean Water Act, every three years states are required to review and, if necessary, revise those standards to be protective of surface waters. The Forum, having adopted water quality standards for the river, must also review and revise these salinity control standards every three years.

In summary, the findings of the Review are that:

- Salinity concentrations in the Colorado River are below the numeric criteria;
- There is little chance of concentrations in the near term going above the numeric criteria; and
- No need to change the numeric criteria.

The Review also finds that the salinity load in the river has been reduced by 1,080,100 tons a year and with the proposed plan of implementation the salinity load will be reduced by 1,864,600 by the year 2030. With the plan of implementation in place, the probability of exceeding the numeric criteria that have been established at Hoover Dam, Parker Dam and Imperial Dam, in 2030 is 3% or less. Damages due to the use of Colorado River water in the Lower Basin (California, Nevada, New Mexico and Arizona) remains high. As a consequence, the Review states that the Forum and the states intend to continue their support of an aggressive salinity control program.

As the state agency delegated responsibility for carrying out the provisions of the Clean Water Act in Arizona, ADEQ works with the Forum in developing and adopting new salinity control standards. Upon adoption by the Forum, ADEQ then adopts the Forum’s standards and plan of implementation, by rule, into its surface water quality standards at A.A.C. R18-11-110.

4. The name and address of agency personnel with whom persons may communicate regarding the notice of public information and to submit written comments on the notice:

Comments should be submitted to the person listed below. Comments are due by close of business Wednesday, October 14, 2008 and can be made by fax, e-mail or regular mail.

Name: Linda Taunt

Address: Department of Environmental Quality
Water Quality Division
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Arizona Administrative Register / Secretary of State
Notices of Public Information

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